

Dear Parents,

This year in social studies we are going to be taking an in depth look at the Eastern Hemisphere. We will be looking in depth at common themes of geography, culture, and history. The goal this year is to present truth to the students in a way that helps them to see the world as it really is.

Specifically the curriculum will be divided up by quarters. We will start with basic geography of the world then move on to areas of the Eastern Hemisphere. During this time we will also be looking at other important parts of the Social Studies world including research and current events.

Student’s grades in social studies will be based on five different areas of assessment. These determining factors are tests, quizzes, homework, daily work, and projects. The percentage for each of these categories will slightly different each quarter based on the level of difficulty and amount of work in each of the five areas. Students will be updated regularly on their grade in the class, if you would like an update feel free to email if you have questions.

I look forward to having your student in class and us working together in preparing your student for the future. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do in the classroom to help accommodate your student. Thank you for your time and support.

- Ms. Johnston

**Homework:**

Will range from bookwork to finding current events. Homework is worth 15% of your students overall grade in Social Studies. I expect excellence from the students even in there homework will mainly be graded for accuracy unless otherwise informed.

**Quizzes:**

A quiz over map terms will be given every Thursday. This will be 25% of each student’s grade. They are accumulative starting over at each quarter. At the beginning of each quarter they will receive a list of geography related terms that they will need to know every week. Since the students know exactly what is going to be on each quiz, this should be an easy grade for the students. Please encourage weekly studying for these quizzes.

**Tests:**

There will be about three tests or large assessments each quarter. These will be announced at least a week in advance. Tests will be worth 35% of the quarterly grade.

**Projects:**

There will be at least one project a quarter that will be worth 15% of the overall grade. Students will be given a rubric for each project and expected to follow it very closely. Projects will be based on applying knowledge learned in class and applying it to the real world.

**Daily Work**

For the students to excel in my class they will need to participate in class activities and in answering questions. To emphasize how important this is 10% of each student’s overall grade will be dedicated to daily work. This will include in-class projects, website posts, and taking notes in class.

**Grading**:

The breakdown of the grading for this quarter is as follows:

* Homework Grading - 15%
* Quizzes – 25%
* Tests – 35%
* Projects – 15%
* Daily Work – 10%

**Material:**

The following is a list of items that will need to be brought to class each day.

* Social Studies Textbook (CD Book)
* Macbook and Charger
* Binder with loose-leaf paper Pencil(s)
* Pen or Pencil

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Prepared
3. Be Responsible

Please read and return to me by **Friday, August 21st, 2009.**

I agree to follow the expectations laid out in this letter.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name                                       Student Signature                Date  

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name                                          Parent Signature                Date